

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a).

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2005/0044567 to Young et al. ("Young") and EP 1 028 589 to Entwistle ("Entwistle")

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Entwistle.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. Claim 1 states that a display device displays information about added programs that are favorite ones for a user and information about scheduled programs to be viewed or recorded for the user. Also, the claim states that the information about the added programs and the scheduled programs are displayed while arranged in a single two-dimensional program guide screen at locations corresponding to respective time slots along a same time axis, where the same time axis is displayed by the display device.

As set forth in the October 2, 2006 Amendment, the Examiner contends that Fig. 1 and paragraphs 0049, 0063, and 0079 of Young suggest the claimed features. Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, Fig. 1 and paragraph 0063 merely show and describe a guide 24 that lists the programs broadcast on twelve favorite channels that a user has previously selected and includes a cursor 32 (having an offset shadow 34 and segmented portions 36) to highlight one of the programs in the guide 24. Since Fig. 1 shows favorite channels, it does not suggest displaying information about added programs, let alone displaying information about added

programs and scheduled programs while arranged in a guide screen at locations corresponding to respective time slots along a same time axis, such that the same time axis is displayed by the display device.

In response to the above, the Examiner also refers to paragraphs [0108], [0111] and [0112] of Young as disclosing information about desired programs (pg. 2 of Office Action). However, the cited paragraphs merely describe how twelve favorite channels are allowed on the screen and the process for changing a favorite channel. The Examiner appears to maintain that by allowing a user to add desired channels which carry desired programs, the information of the added programs is displayed. Applicant submits that the display of a favorite channel does not teach display of program information of favorite programs, even though a favorite program may reside on the displayed channel (i.e., since only the channel itself is displayed).

Furthermore, in the October 2, 2006 Amendment, Applicant argued that paragraph 0049 merely describes a program note overlay 52 (Fig. 6), which is superposed over the guide 24 shown in Fig. 1. Clearly, the description about the overlay 52 does not suggest displaying information about added programs and scheduled programs while arranged in a guide screen at locations corresponding to respective time slots along a same time axis, such that the same time axis is displayed by the display device.

Finally, it was noted that paragraph 0079 describes the "What On This Tape" screen 76 shown in Fig. 13. While the screen 76 contains information about programs that have been recorded on a tape, it merely lists the duration of each recorded program vertically along the right-hand side of Fig. 13. Thus, even assuming that the duration of each program in the screen

76 corresponds to a time axis, it is vertically oriented. On the other hand, the time slots are listed horizontally in the guide 24 shown in Fig. 1. Accordingly, to the extent that the channels in Fig. 1 somehow correspond to added programs, Applicant argued that the information about these added programs are not arranged along a same time axis as the information about the recorded programs in Fig. 13.

On page 3 of the current Office Action, the Examiner appears to respond to Applicant's comments regarding Young's failure to suggest displaying information about added programs and scheduled programs while arranged in a guide screen at locations corresponding to respective time slots along a same time axis, such that the same time axis is displayed by the display device, by referring to paragraphs 0043, 0046 and 0067 of Young. In paragraphs 0043 and 0046, however, Young merely discloses that a selected program is highlighted in red and that when titles matching a title in the category "Linked Titles," the programs will be tagged for recording and shaded in red. In paragraph 0067, Young merely discloses that when a guide is first opened, the cursor and the current channel are situated in the same row together and when the channel is changed, the cursor will be dragged along with the channel. Applicant submits that such portions fail to teach or remotely suggest displaying information about added programs and scheduled programs while arranged in a guide screen at locations corresponding to respective time slots along a same time axis, such that the same time axis is displayed by the display device, as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, claim 1 recites that a first and second program of added programs are displayed in a single row when the first program contends in the same time slot of the second

program. The Examiner maintains that the top row of Figure 5 of Entwistle discloses such feature. However, the cited portion of Entwistle merely discloses that a viewing channel can always remain visible even when channels are scrolled down. Applicant submits that Figure 5 fails to teach or suggest that a first and second program, of added programs, are displayed in a single row when the first program contends in the same time slot of the second program.

Since Entwistle and Young fail to cure the respective deficient teachings of each other, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the references.

B. Claims 2-10

Since claims 2-10 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 11

Since claim 11 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for at least analogous reasons.

D. Claims 12-20

Since claims 12-18 depend upon claim 1 or 11, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/963,416

II. Newly added claims

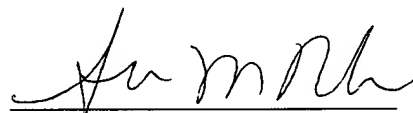
Applicants have added new claims 21-25 to provide more varied protection for the invention.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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